Volume 7, Edition 6

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

June 2003

June Meeting at Sonoma PD

Bring your appetite, because we're going to be cookin' barbecue

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Thanks to George, K6ITE, for running the May meeting in my absence. This month's meeting will be held at the Sonoma Police Dept. starting at 6:30 pm. We will be serving up a BBQ of hamburgers and hot dogs.

The major item on the agenda will be this year's Field Day which will also be held at the Sonoma PD. Operating at an EOC will give us more points under the new Field Day rules and, more importantly, an opportunity to really demonstrate our ability to set up HF stations in an emergency situation.

As of July 3, the new 60 meter band will be available for amateur use. Operation on this band is very restricted. There are only five channels and a 50 watt power limit. The problem I see is how to get the existing rigs to cover those frequencies. Any ideas?

The other big item concerning the ham bands is the world wide harmonizing of the 40 meter band. Wouldn't it be nice to get rid of the AM foreign broadcasts and be able to work DX on our phone segment? This will be decided at the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) starting on June 9.

Let me know if anyone is interested in operating Kid's Day on June 21st.

And remember, an unused band

gives the commercial interests the incentive to take them over. Fire up your rigs and talk to someone.

73, Jim

KID'S DAY

The second Kid's Day of 2003 will be June 21, from 1800-2400 UTC. There's no limit on operating time. The twice-annual event, held in January and June, offers a chance for amateurs to invest in the future of Amateur Radio by participating in a simple, but rewarding, on-the-air event. Now in its ninth year, each running of Kid's Day typically attracts more than 1000 participants.

Kid's Day is intended as an opportunity to share Amateur Radio with young people--licensed or not--in the hope that they'll enjoy the experience and possibly pursue their own license in the future.

Activity for Kid's Day (http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html) takes place on 20, 15 and 10 meters and can include local 2-meter repeaters. It's an opportunity to introduce your own youngsters, neighborhood kids and nieces and nephews to participate to the magic of ham radio and perhaps spark a lifelong love for the hobby

(From the ARRL newsletter)

VOMARC MINUTES May 21, 2003

There were 20 in attendance.

The evening began with an ACS program presented by Ken McTaggart, N6KM, on proper message handling for emergency communications activities. The purpose is to become familiar with handling, in a fast, efficient manner, written third party messages in emergencies.

The business meeting was called to order at 8:45pm with Vice President, George Mauer, K6ITE, presiding. President Jim Hill, K6UUW, was on vacation.

The minutes stand approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurers report: There is actually money in the bank.

There was no correspondence.

ACS Report: Everyone's present ACS membership card is good until the new cards being implemented with the county-wide system changes go into effect and all county wide cards are issued. All present memberships are valid through 2006. There will be an emergency drill sometime in the near future.

There was discussion regarding the sorting of all the old radio tubes the club has. The times will be determined by Darrel Jones, WD6BOR, and will be at his hangar at Sonoma Skypark

Airport. The first sort will be a gross sort, and then there will be a refining sort to determine which tubes to be auctioned an EBAY. It was suggested Darrel bring a box to each meeting, and anyone arriving 1/2 hour early can help sort on meeting nights.

The Hit the Road Jack run usually held the first week end in June in conjunction with the Ox Roast has been cancelled. The usual club meeting the third Wednesday of June will be a BBQ held at the Sonoma Police Department. Also, the location for Field Day, the 28th and 29th of June, will be at the Sonoma Police Department. This will fulfill the requirements for the new F Class station which involves working from the EOC. There is an article regarding the new F class in QST. The event will be semi-open to the public in that we can have an information table in front of the police station regarding Field Day and the club, but if anyone wants to see the equipment, that person must be escorted by a card-carrying ACS member.

There was discussion regarding preparing circuit boards for the solar panels. The cost of materials is approximately $135. It was moved and seconded that this amount be spent for the circuit boards. The motion was carried. The circuit boards are 3.5" by 2.5" and are double sided. They will be ordered from Express PCB Company. It takes about 2 weeks to get the boards. Then it was suggested we have a soldering party. We will end up with 6 finished units that are 14.5 volts, 5 amps.

There was a reminder that we still need many toroids wound. Contact Steve Todd, K2IYQ.

The Hamfest netted $586. We had more breakfast partakers this year than in previous years - approximately 130. The VE session was a good one with most people exiting with smiles on their faces. There were approximately 14 vendors. Since most venors were outside, the room inside looked pretty empty. We want to start now inviting other non-profit clubs to participate next year so that we can fill the inside with vendors and exhibits. Please contact clubs with which you are familiar & let them know about the hamfest so they can plan for next April. Steve Marler will request our free day for the Vets Building at this time to assure we have it reserved for next year.

The VOMARC T-shirts are available for $15.00. Thanks Eilene.

New business:

Welcome to our new member, Harold Nygaard.

There is the Two Rock & Roll Bike Race May 31, 2003. All members who wish to help with communications please contact Harold at Nygaard@CBSI.net. or call 963-0331. This race is

comprised of 3 loops, a 60mile, 35 mile, and 10 mile loop with different starting times. The race benefits the Lung Association. There is a meal to follow.

Steve Todd, K2IYQ, is continuing the code practice sessions at 7:45PM nightly (when he is available) on 147.48.

The next VE session sponsored by our club is in August.

Upcoming events for club participation are: 4th of July parade; Liberty Ride, August 10, 2003; Vintage Festival Parade third weekend in August; Pacificon, October 17 -19, 2003.

There was a suggestion that VOMARC join the Chamber of Commerce. No discussion at this time. Also, there was a suggestion that VOMARC have a table at the Sonoma Valley Business Expo.

Public Service Report:

Steve Todd, K2IYQ, repaired the microphone the public uses at the city council meetings and let the city council members know it was courtesy of VOMARC.

Steve Todd won the monthly raffle. Remember, the more meetings you attend during the year, the more chances you have of winning the grand raffle at the annual dinner and installation of officers in December--one free ticket for every monthly meeting attended.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Brady, W6WXU, Secretary.

SUBJECT: 2003 NCS ASSIGNMENTS

MONDAY NIGHT SONOMA VALLEY ACS NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS - 2003

MONTH	CALL	NAME
JAN	KG6LJN	DAN
FEB	N6KM	KEN
MAR	AE6FQ	JAN
APR	K6ITE	GEORGE
MAY	K2IYQ	STEVE
JUN	K9OOU	JAN
JUL	KF6QZP	CRAIG
AUG	AA6GV	RANDY
SEP	VACANT	
OCT	VACANT	
NOV	K2IYQ	STEVE
DEC	K6UUW	JIM

CHECK INTO THE SONOMA OP AREA ON 146.73 REPEATER AT 1900. GIVE OUR NET'S ATTENDANCE FROM THE WEEK BEFORE. GET INFO FROM COUNTY NET FOR OUR NET.

CONDUCT THE S.V. ACS NET AT 1930 ON 146.205+/88.5 USING OUR NET SCRIPT.

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR NET, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO GET A REPLACEMENT. CALL ME, JIM K6UUW OR STEVE K2IYQ FOR HELP.

73 KEN N6KM UNIT LEADER [05/08/03]

VOMARC NET – Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Net Control Operators
MAY WB6TMH Mike
JUN W6JFN Kermit
JUL K6ITE George
AUG KF6FZM Dick
SEP KG6LJP Ashley
OCT WD6BOR Darrel
NOV KG6LJN Dan
DEC K2IYQ Steve

Code Practice

Steve, K2IYQ, will continue on the air code practice sessions at 5 wpm until June. Now is the time to bone up for the next VE exam and upgrade to General.

Sessions are held on 147.48 MHz at approximately 7:45 PM each evening that Steve remembers to be there. Most weekends he forgets.

For Sale

Club items
Frequency Counter 0 - 500 MHz $10

3 section Crank Up Tower with Base Plate This must have Guy Wires. Make offer

Rotator with Control Box $25

Contact Steve Todd, K2IYQ, 938-5016

MAGAZINES, FREE TO A GOOD HOME!

Darrel, WD6BOR, has about twenty years' worth of various ham radio and electronics magazines that are looking for a good home. They include back issues of QST, Ham Radio, 73, CQ, Popular Electronics, Radio-Electronics, and some Amateur Television magazines.

He had collected them for use in an electronics class he taught for many years, but is no longer teaching.

It would break his heart to have to take them to recycling, but space constraints dictate that they leave his company.

The magazines contain a wealth of information about building, operating, antennas, radio product reviews, and various ham activities.

The collection would be a wonderful resource for a new ham interested in learning everything about their new hobby. The magazines would also make an outstanding reference library for some individual or for the club as a whole.

If any VOMARC member wants to adopt these adorable magazines before they are "put down", give Darrel a call at 996-4494 to arrange for pick-up or delivery.

Upcoming Events

The big event this month is, of course, Field Day, June 28 and 29. Set-up will start about 8 a.m. Saturday, and operation will run 24 hours from 11 a.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday.

Lots of strong coffee will be available for the graveyard shift.

The event, for our new members, is a combination emergency preparedness exercise, weekend-long radio operating contest and another chance to eat a lot of good food and visit with our ham radio friends. Field Day is sponsored by the ARRL, and covers all bands and modes of operation.

VOMARC will be setting up and operating from the Sonoma Police Department, 175 First Street West. The operation will be centered in the picnic area behind the building, and operation will be from stations there and in the Emergency Operations Center, or EOC.

Operating from the EOC will allow VOMARC to operate as a category “F” entry. This is a new category this year, and applies to stations that operate from an emergency communications center. The purpose is to encourage clubs to exercise their local emergency communications resources before they are actually needed.

VOMARC has two major new projects prepared for use this year. The first is the tower trailer and beam antenna that was premiered at the VOMARC Hamfest in April. The trailer allows us to set up a tower and beam in less than an hour anywhere it is needed. The second project is the solar charge controller for the commercial solar panels donated to the club by the local electrical apprenticeship program. They will be used to charge batteries that will hopefully supply all the power needed to run the radios at our three operating positions.

Last, but not least, is the fact that we have a nice barbecue and kitchen facility at our disposal for the weekend. What would you like, chicken, sausage, shrimp, steak, or all of them? Come to the next meeting and let the cooks know.

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 7 EDITION 6

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Da Prez

George Maurer, K6ITE– Next in Line

Joan Brady, W6WXU – Royal Scribe

Steve Todd, K2IYQ – Da Bank

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Mr. Fixit

Ken McTaggert, N6KM – Trustee (out on parole)

Steve Todd, K2IYQ – Club Social Secretary

Jan Bush, AE6FQ _ Lord of the Internet

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – (whereabouts unknown)

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE:
http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Denny's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

WD6BOR@VOM.COM

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

Valley of the Moon ARC
18958 Carillo Court
Sonoma, CA 95476

NOTICE!!! THE JUNE VOMARC MEETING IS THIS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE SONOMA POLICE STATION, 175 FIRST ST. WEST, SONOMA! CU THERE!

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2003 Membership Dues: $10/year individual; $5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

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VOMARC:$_____ARRL:$_____TOTAL:$_____

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC –** 18958 Carillo Court, Sonoma, CA 95476-5570